

Indiana Futsal and Outreach 2022-2023 Report

Justin Becht

Futsal/Outreach Director

Indiana Soccer Outreach experienced significant growth in the first full year since the creation of the department in 2022. Several successful projects around Indiana have helped grow the beautiful game into public spaces through converting park spaces for futsal/soccer, supporting local community events, and our Futsal for All program.

Indy Parks Partnership

Indiana Soccer Association and Indy Parks officially announce partnership making way for drop – in futsal programs, public place making, and future city-wide tournaments. This spring six various small - sided soccer fields were created at Thatcher Park on Indy’s west side and Grassy Creek on the city’s east side. The creation of these fields we made possible by the collaboration between Indy Parks, Indiana Soccer Association, Naptown United, and Dicks Sporting Goods.

The growth of futsal in Indy Parks made a significant leap this year with the creation of four new drop-in programs to serve youth and adults alike. Programs are currently running at Ellenberger, Rhodius, Riverside, and Broad Ripple parks with more locations on the horizon.

Broad Ripple Park – January 21 Indiana Futsal and Futsal Indy provided a one-hour futsal clinic for the grand opening of the new Broad Ripple Park Family Center. Youth and Adult futsal have been a consistent weekly program since the opening. The success of the program has created demand for more nights and potential tournament play.

Futsal for All

Futsal for All saw enormous growth in 2023 expanding to 147 new schools and introducing the game to over 100,000 students across four school districts. Teachers from South Bend, Fort Wayne, Logansport, and Mooresville all participated in the Futsal for All Grassroots course where they received a US Futsal Grassroots diploma, three professional growth point credits, as well as a set of goals and bag of balls to take back to their gyms.

The newest member of the Indiana Soccer Outreach team, John Koluder, has been helping with identifying and securing funding to sustain the Futsal for All program. John and Justin Becht, Director of Outreach, attended the Indiana INShape to present futsal and the program to hundreds of PE teachers and administrators from across the state. Over 50 teachers participated in the shortened 45-minute version of the course during the conference.

Events

USYS Grassroots Symposium - Director of Outreach Justin Becht was privileged enough to attend the inaugural US Youth Soccer Grassroots Symposium held in St. Paul Minnesota. Indiana Soccer and Indiana Soccer Foundation sponsored two attendees who are champions of the grassroots game in their communities.

Yanic McDowell is the Dean of Student Culture at Harrison Elementary School in South Bend, Indiana and has been working with at-risk youth on the city's west side through creating integrated school sports leagues. Isabel Schlebecker is the Vice President of Naptown United, a new club that serves the downtown Indy area who is working to provide more soccer and futsal spaces for inner-city youth. Both attendees gained much insight and knowledge to return to their communities with a renewed passion for their work.

Michiana Area Recreation Association "Play Like a Champion" Conference – Hosted in September at Notre Dame University bringing in groups from all over the Michiana and Chicago areas. Justin and Intern Carter Drake attended the two-day conference and presented Futsal for All to 46 attendees as the final presentation at the conference. Indiana Soccer has partnered with MARA to help bring affordable and accessible soccer/futsal programming to the Michiana area.

SecFed Block Party – Indiana Futsal was honored to support the SecFed Block Party Adult Futsal Tournament in downtown Logansport. 12 teams played a friendly futsal tournament in the downtown square of Logansport to celebrate the annual block party.